

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica which has the following physical and chemical properties:

CTAB surface area 100-160 m<sup>2</sup>/g

BET surface area 100-190 m<sup>2</sup>/g

DBP value 180-300 g/(100 g)

Sears value V<sub>2</sub> 15-28 ml/(5 g)

Moisture level 4-8%

Ratio of Sears value V<sub>2</sub> to

BET surface area 0.150 to 0.280 ~~ml/(5m<sup>2</sup>)~~ ml/(5m<sup>2</sup>).

Claim 2 (Original): The precipitate silica as claimed in claim 1, wherein the BET surface area is 100 to 170 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the CTAB surface area is from 100 to 150 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the Sears value V<sub>2</sub> is from 20 to 28 ml/(5 g).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the Sears value V<sub>2</sub> is from 22 to 28 ml/(5 g).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the DBP value is from 200 to 250 g/(100 g).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the DBP value is from 250 to 280 g/(100 g).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the ratio of Sears value  $V_2$  to the BET surface area is from 0.170 to 0.280 ml/(5 m<sup>2</sup>).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the BET/CTAB ratio is from 0.9 to 1.2.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing precipitated silicas, ~~which comprises~~ comprising

- a) taking an aqueous solution of an alkali metal silicate or alkaline earth metal silicate and/or of an organic and/or inorganic base with an alkali value from 7 to 30 as initial charge,
- b) metering water glass and an acidifier simultaneously into this initial charge at from 55 to 95°C, with stirring, for from 10 to 120 minutes, in such a way that during the precipitation the AV remains constant at from 15 to 30,
- c) using an acidifier to acidify to pH of from approx. 2.5 to 6, and
- d) filtering, washing and drying.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the AV in step b) is from 18 to 30.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein after step a), the steps carried out comprise b') stopping the feed for from 30 to 90 minutes while maintaining the temperature, and

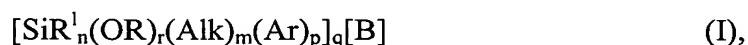
b'') then, at the same temperature, for from 10 to 120 minutes, preferably from 10 to 60 minutes, simultaneously adding water glass and an acidifier in such a way that the AV remains constant during the precipitation.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 12~~, wherein during step b) and/or b') and/or b'') an organic or inorganic salt is added.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 10, wherein for the drying process use is made of a pneumatic drier, spray drier, disk drier, belt drier, rotating-tube drier, flash drier, spin flash drier, or spray tower.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~claims 10 to 14~~ claim 10, wherein after the drying process, a roller compactor is used for pelletizing.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~whose Surfaces have~~ wherein the surface of the precipitated silica has been modified with organosilanes of the formulae I to III



or



where

B is -SCN, -SH, -Cl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)CHCH<sub>2</sub>, -OC(O)C(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub> (if q = 1), or -S<sub>w</sub>- (if q = 2), B being chemically bonded to Alk, R and R<sup>1</sup> are an aliphatic, olefinic, aromatic, or arylaromatic radical having 2-30 carbon atoms, optionally with substitution by the following groups: the hydroxyl, amino, alcoholate, cyanide, thiocyanide, halo, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, acrylate, methacrylate, or organosilane radical, where the meaning or substitution of R and R<sup>1</sup> may be identical or different,

n is 0, 1, or 2,

Alk is a bivalent unbranched or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

m is 0 or 1,

Ar is an aryl radical having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms, preferably 6 carbon atoms, which may have substitution by the following groups: the hydroxyl, amino, alcoholate, cyanide, thiocyanide, halo, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, acrylate, methacrylate or organosilane radical,

p is 0 or 1, with the proviso that p and n are not simultaneously 0,

q is 1 or 2,

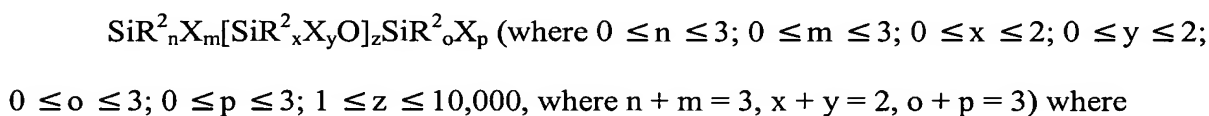
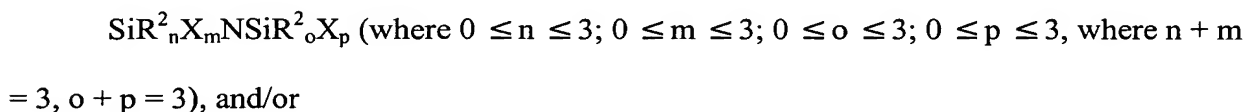
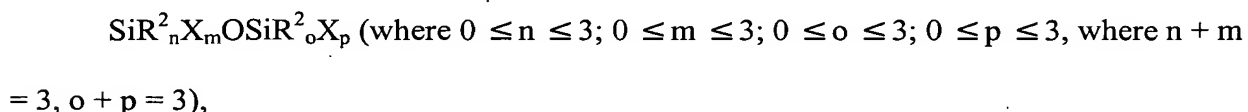
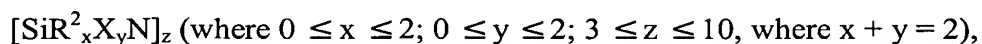
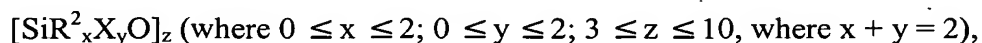
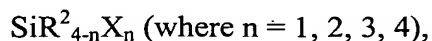
w is a number from 2 to 8,

r is 1, 2, or 3, with the proviso that r + n + m + p = 4,

Alkyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably from 2 to 8 carbon atoms,

Alkenyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably from 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The precipitated silica as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~whose surfaces have~~ wherein the surface of the precipitated silica has been modified with organosilicon compounds whose composition is



$\text{R}^2$  is alkyl and/or aryl radicals, substituted and/or unsubstituted, having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and/or is alkoxy and/or alkenyl and/or alkynyl groups, and/or is sulfur-containing groups,

X is a silanol, amino, thiol, halogen, alkoxy, alkenyl and/or hydrogen radical.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing the silicas as claimed in claim 16 ~~or 17~~, which comprises modifying the precipitated silicas with organosilanes in mixtures of from 0.5 to 50 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, in particular from 1 to 15 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, where the reaction between precipitated silica and organosilane is carried out during the preparation of the mixture (in situ) or externally via spray application and subsequent heat-conditioning of the mixture, via mixing of the organosilane and the silica suspension with subsequent drying and heat-conditioning.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The use of silicas as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 in elastomer mixtures, in vulcanizable rubber mixtures, and/or in other vulcanizates, such as pneumatic tires, tire treads, cable sheathing, hoses, drive belts, conveyor belts, V-belts, roller coverings, tires, shoe soles, gaskets, and damping elements.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The use of silicas as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 in battery separators, as antiblocking agent, as matting agent in inks and paints, as carrier for agricultural products and for feeds, in coatings, in printing inks, in fire-extinguisher powders, in plastics, in the non-impact printing sector, in paper pulp, or in the personal care sector.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A vulcanizable rubber mixture or a vulcanizate comprising, as filler, the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1, with the following physical and chemical properties:

CTAB surface area	100-160 m <sup>2</sup> /g
BET surface area	100-190 m <sup>2</sup> /g
DBP value	180-300 g/(100 g)
Sears value V <sub>2</sub>	15-28 ml/(5 g)
Moisture level	4-8%
Ratio of Sears value V <sub>2</sub> to	
BET surface area	0.150 to 0.280
	ml/(5 m <sup>2</sup> ).

Claim 22 (New): A process for preparing the silicas as claimed in claim 17, which comprises modifying the precipitated silicas with organosilanes in mixtures of from 0.5 to 50

parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, in particular from 1 to 15 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, where the reaction between precipitated silica and organosilane is carried out during the preparation of the mixture (in situ) or externally via spray application and subsequent heat-conditioning of the mixture, via mixing of the organosilane and the silica suspension with subsequent drying and heat-conditioning.